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GENERAL

1. US advises restraint in Middle East--The Department of State has instructed US missions in various Middle East capitals to emphasize to the governments concerned the desirability of exercising restraint following the Syrian coup d'etat.

(CIA Comment: The latest Syrian coup, the second in four months, is symptomatic of the current instability in the Arab world. Present reports, which are still meager, indicate that the coup was an internal affair engineered by dissatisfied officers of the Syrian Army. There is as yet no concrete evidence that elements in neighboring countries were involved in the coup although the governments of both Iraq and Jordan have frequently and openly expressed antagonism toward Zaim's regime. Even if such elements were not involved in Zaim's overthrow, these countries may feel that current dislocations in Syria present an opportunity for realizing Hashimite expansionist ambitions at the expense of Syria. The possibility also exists that other would-be "saviors" in the area may be inspired to imitate the Syrian coup as a direct method of obtaining governmental control. Pending the formation of a new government, the status of international commitments entered into by the Zaim Government--particularly the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Convention and the Syrian-Israeli Armistice--remains undetermined.)

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2. Norway seeks surplus arms exchange with WU nations--US Ambassador Bay in Oslo reports that Norway, invoking the principle of mutual aid contained in the Atlantic Pact, will soon submit to the Western Union nations a proposal for a limited exchange of surplus war materials. Norway's most urgent need, according to Bay, is for certain types of ammunition which the Norwegians are seeking from the Western Union

State Dept., OSD reviews completed

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nations. Bay indicates that in return Norway will offer certain equipment left by the Germans. The Norwegian Government expresses the view that although the exchange of military equipment will eventually be taken up by the North Atlantic pact supply organization, a few exchanges should be undertaken as quickly as possible.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

3. IRAN: Shah's concern over planned MAP aid--US Ambassador Wiley reports that the Shah is "extremely upset" over the proposed US military aid program for Iran and has spoken of cancelling his projected visit to the US. The Ambassador urgently recommends that the possibility of increasing Iran's share of aid under the military aid program be considered because he believes the present aid program for Iran will both: (a) fail to maintain Iranian confidence in US support; and (b) strengthen suspicion of Iranian leaders that a "secret US policy" exists designed to "sacrifice Iran in event of a crisis." The Ambassador points out that although there is presently some doubt regarding the will and ability of the Iranian Army to fight, increased US military aid and continued guidance might lead to the development of a military establishment capable of substantially contributing to US security interests in the Middle East.

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